

Wilson Agents Confer with Strike Chiefs

Defence Council Members Hold All-Night Parley Here

President Appeals To Men's Patriotism

Urges Settlement of Dispute "in Time of National Peril"

The question of a nation-wide railroad strike at an early hour this morning was still in acute suspense. A committee of the Council on National Defence was in conference at 2:30 this morning with representatives of the railway managers, after spending more than four hours in consultation with the brotherhood chiefs. This was a final effort to avert the walkout, scheduled to start at 7 o'clock to-night.

The brotherhood chiefs were called in first and left the hotel at 1:30, passing out through a rear exit. Then the managers were summoned. No more information, it was announced, would be given until this morning.

The conference took place in the Hotel Biltmore. All communication with the room on the second floor was cut off; guards stood at the door and the telephone was disconnected.

Wilson Makes Appeal
The appointment of the committee was announced in an appeal made by President Wilson to the patriotism of the trainmen. It follows:

I deem it my duty and right to appeal to you in this time of national peril to open again the questions at issue between the railroads and their operatives with a view to accommodation or settlement.

With my approval a committee of the council of national defence is about to seek a conference with you with that end in view.

A general interruption of the railway traffic of the country at this time would entail a danger to the nation against which I have the right to enter my most solemn and earnest protest.

It is now the duty of every patriotic man to bring matters of this sort to immediate accommodation. The safety of the country against manifest perils affecting its own peace and the peace of the whole world makes accommodation absolutely imperative, and seems to me to render any other choice or action inconceivable.

Managers Respond
On receipt of the President's telegram the railway managers sent this message:

In harmony with the spirit of your message, the national committee of the railroads will cooperate with the committee of the Council of National Defence in an earnest effort to avert the national calamity which would result from an interruption of railway traffic.

The railroad brotherhoods at midnight had sent no reply.

The committee consists of Secretaries Lane, Wilson, Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and Samuel Gompers. Mr. Gompers, it was explained, could not be reached by Mr. Lane in time to join the other members of the committee in New York. It was said that he was near New York and probably would participate in the conference to-day.

Lane Arrives First

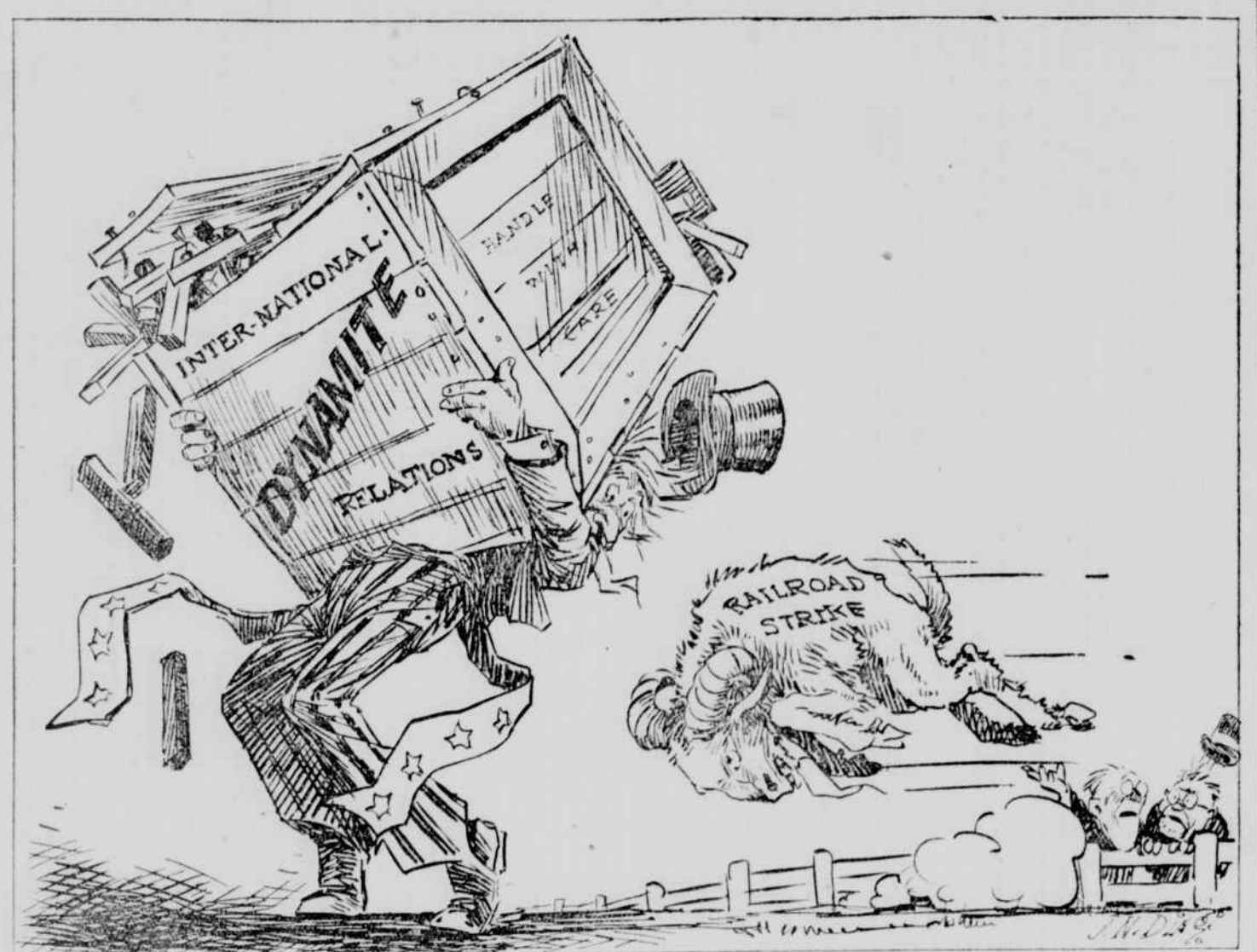
Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, was the first to arrive at the Hotel Biltmore. He got there at 9:30 last night. Hardly had he vanished into the elevator when Warren S. Stone appeared, closely followed by W. G. Lee, L. E. Sheppard and William S. Carter, representatives of the brotherhoods. The four men went straight to the rooms occupied by Mr. Lane, and the conference was on.

They were soon joined by Mr. Willard, and Secretary of Labor Wilson arrived at 10:30. Up to 11:30 there was no sign of Mr. Gompers. Word came from Washington that he was in New York, but diligent use of the telephone failed to unearth him.

"We hope for results," was all that Mr. Lane would say after the conference, with the exception of Mr. Gompers, had assembled.

Lee Ready to Report

When the conference had lasted less than an hour Mr. Lee came downstairs, apparently to make a preliminary report to the brotherhood members waiting in the lobby. They dispersed at once and Mr. Lee returned to the conference without making any statement, but leaving the impression that it was to be a stubborn session.



This message, it is believed, was the news that Mr. Lee brought to those waiting in the lobby.
Railroad officials awaited the result in the offices of the Grand Central Terminal, across Vanderbilt Avenue from the hotel.
The President still believes that a walkout can be prevented. Washington dispatches last night asserted. There is a suspicion that the loyalty of the men to their country in time of crisis may impede the strike and eventually make it unsuccessful.
Although employees of the Pennsylvania road are said to be reluctant to strike, nowhere in the East was there evidence of such spontaneous action as that of Western unions, which repudiated the whole movement, and it is said, were responsible for the delay in calling the strike on Western roads.

Western Strike Delayed

Not until Tuesday will the strike hit the Northwest and not until Wednesday will the whole West be affected. For this purpose the engineers of the Atchafalaya, who wired brotherhood chiefs that they could be counted on for the eight-hour day agitation henceforth, the conductors of the railroads, and the firemen of the Illinois Central, who refused to quit. The 12,000 members of the Switchmen's Union of North America, with contracts with fourteen railroads, also are holding aloof from the movement.

Freight embargoes were declared last night on the New York Central, the New York, New Haven & Hartford, the Erie and the Pennsylvania. Those of the Central, the Erie and the New Haven were sweeping, the last making an exception in the case of milk shipments, but the two former roads were merely making no exceptions.
Passenger trains of the line affected will be curtailed once the strike begins. As a foretaste, the New Haven announced that beginning to-night there would be no sleepers and no diners on its trains, and that passenger cars would be subject to delay and curtailment. The strike of the yard men in the Grand Central and other terminals is said largely to be responsible.

President's Action Announced

The first announcement that the President had intervened came in a telegram to William G. Lee, of the trainmen, asking that he and his associates await the arrival in New York of Messrs. Wilson, Lane, Willard and Gompers. The telegram was sent by the Federal Mediation Board, which had been informed that the brotherhood men were about to leave New York. The railroad managers received their information from the reporters.

When this message was received the brotherhood chiefs and completed their plans for the beginning of the strike to-night. The schedule follows:
SATURDAY, 7 p. m. (Eastern time). All freight and yard men not actually moving trains to quit work on the New York Central and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and Samuel Gompers. Mr. Gompers, it was explained, could not be reached by Mr. Lane in time to join the other members of the committee in New York. It was said that he was near New York and probably would participate in the conference to-day.

SUNDAY—All freight employees to quit on the Erie, the Atlantic Coast Line, the Southern Railway, the Louisville & Nashville and the Seaboard Air Line.

MONDAY—Traffic on all other Eastern freight lines except the New Haven, to be halted.

TUESDAY—Northwestern roads to be halted.

WEDNESDAY—All other freight men and all in the passenger service, to refuse to take out trains.

Loyalty Pledges Given

The reason for delay in starting the Western men on strike became very apparent during the day with the receipt of dispatches from various points saying that a considerable number of employees of some cases whole divisions, played a larger proportion of the men than in refusing to obey the order to quit. The railroad managers, who had been in continuous session nearly all day, had concluded their message came from the strike, and that President Wilson had wired both sides asking them to meet with the mediators and to try to avoid a larger proportion of the men than in refusing to obey the order to quit. They had been in touch with their territory during the preceding two days and hours and had received assurances that had signified their intention of remaining at work last morning could be expected to remain on duty at this time.

Washington's view of strike crisis, railroad embargoes, the food situation, on Page 6.

Interned Raiders Moved; Stockade Built for Crews

Eitel Friedrich and Wilhelm Towed from League Island

(From a Staff Correspondent of The Tribune)
Philadelphia, March 16.—The interned German raiders, the Prinz Eitel Friedrich and the Kronprinz Wilhelm, with 750 officers and men aboard, were moved to-day from the berths at the League Island Navy Yard which they had occupied for nearly a year. Navy tugs towed the raiders across Back Channel to an anchorage half a mile distant, with the aim of preventing further plotting between the German naval officers and confederates ashore.
While every effort compatible with safety was made to preserve for the "guests" of the United States their former comforts, the Teuton seamen will find themselves under closer surveillance and shorn of many privileges which they had enjoyed.
The picturesque "German village" on the south side of the basin has been abandoned, and the sailors' shore leave will be spent behind a barbed wire stockade, ten feet high, which incloses a plot of ground adjoining the north side, where the vessels are moored. Marines guard the stockade and the United States scout cruiser, the Salem, near the raiders with baton trained on their decks. The cruiser Chicago stands by in the channel to starboard. Navy launches complete a cordon about the Germans. At night searchlights will keep the raiders' decks and the shore inclosure as light as day.
It is said that the German ships will be moved again in two months, and every two months thereafter, to foil any further conspiring. The entire channel now separates the Germans from the important parts of the yard. The story that Captain Boy-Ed is in this country, when former Ambassador James W. Gerard, who passed the night here on his way to New York, repudiated the interview which credited him with saying he had seen the ex-naval attaché in Berlin shortly before Mr. Gerard started home.

"So far as I know," Mr. Gerard said, "no members of my party saw the captain recently in Berlin. The last time I saw Captain Boy-Ed, as I recall now, was a few days after I returned to Berlin from my vacation here."
"Do you think Boy-Ed is in this country?" Mr. Gerard was asked.
"Everything is possible," he replied, smiling. "Seriously, I don't know where he is. But American women are very attractive."

German Raiders Drop Bombs in England

Attack in Progress Early This Morning, London Reports

London, March 17 (12:35 a. m.).—An air raid on the southeastern counties of England took place last night and was still in progress early this morning, according to an official communication issued at 12:30 o'clock. Bombs were dropped in Kent.

Briand Will Rebuild The French Cabinet

Combined Departments to Have Former Status

Paris, March 16.—The French Cabinet will be reconstructed. Premier Briand, it is understood, in addition to replacing General Lyautey, former Minister of War, will have the departments which had been combined under one minister restored to their former status.
It is expected that the Premier will be able to submit the names of the new ministers to President Poincaré to-morrow.
M. Briand announced his plans at a meeting of the Cabinet, presided over by President Poincaré to-night. The Cabinet agreed to the reform proposed.

Czar's Downfall May Have Profound Effect in Germany

People Taught to Believe War Was Waged by Russia for Aggressive Purposes—Submarine Campaign Denounced and Peace Demanded in Prussian Diet

(By Telegraph to The Tribune)
Washington, March 16.—The effect of the Russian revolution on the German people may be tremendous. Germany has been taught to believe that the European war was inaugurated by Russia for aggressive purposes. Germany's democratic leaders repeatedly pointed to Czarism as the evil spirit dominating the Entente. The object of the Central Powers was proclaimed to be the overthrow of the Russian autocratic menace. Therefore, the Russian revolution may profoundly move German democracy. This is probably its greatest disillusionment since the war began.
This feudalistic system of government must go."
The "Rheinische Westfälische Zeitung" publishes the following excerpt from the speech of Deputy Hoffmann:
"We shall refuse to vote for the budget. Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg is merely the figleaf of military absolutism. Militarism bears the responsibility for the bloodshed in Europe, and only when militarism and despotism are removed will the people breathe freely. Force of arms will not lead to a decision and peace. Distress, desperation and general collapse will do it."
"When both enemies are equally strong, the threat of crashing is sheer nonsense. Germany, despite many successes, has not conquered. The German peace proposal, with its tone of victory, was bound to cause vexation and distrust. She should have communicated her peace terms, and thereby dissipated her enemies' distrust."

Hollweg's Democracy Speech Stirs Germany

London, March 16.—Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent telegraphs that an article in the "Frankfurter Zeitung" appears to confirm to some degree the impression that the sudden appearance of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg in the Prussian Diet on Wednesday and his speech advocating the democratization of Germany were caused by his knowledge of events in Petrograd. The "Zeitung" draws a parallel between the Chancellor's acts and the revolution in Petrograd, pointing out that at the same time that the executive committee of the Duma seized the reins of power Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg delivered the speech which, it says, also disclosed a revolution, though of quite different kind and employing different means.

The newspaper asserts a democratic German Empire will come because it must come, not because the Chancellor avows himself in its favor, but because his words express the will of an overwhelming majority of the people.

Copenhagen, March 16.—A Berlin dispatch to the "National Tidende" says:

"The speech of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg in the Prussian Diet has made a tremendous impression throughout Germany. Such an absolutely explosive answer to the Diet's undemocratic attitude was entirely unexpected. The speech, taken as a whole, has the character of a great political demonstration. What made the greatest impression was the firmness with which he declared he would carry through his new policy against every opposition, together with the warmth with which he defended the Reichstag against the criticism of the Herrenhaus."

Make Peace Terms Known, Prussian Deputy Demands

London, March 16.—The German submarine campaign was denounced as inhuman and the German peace offer of last December characterized as ridiculous in a stormy speech by Deputy Hoffmann, Socialist, in the Prussian Diet after Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg had delivered his speech promising internal political reorganization and reform of the franchise after the war, according to a Berlin dispatch transmitted by the Central News correspondent at Amsterdam.
Hoffmann, after being thrice called to order, was forced to leave the Chamber. Hoffmann, according to the dispatch, declared that the military despotism in Germany was causing mad and unnecessary shedding of blood, and that the peace terms, for a mere blank peace offer, without terms, was ridiculous. Submarine warfare, he insisted, was absolutely opposed to the laws of humanity.
Says Germany Needs Operation
"The German nation," Herr Hoffmann added, "is bleeding for the sake of these in power."
M. Briand announced his plans at a meeting of the Cabinet, presided over by President Poincaré to-night. The Cabinet agreed to the reform proposed.

Committee Governs Russia; Monarchy Now Abolished; Suffrage To Be Universal; Freedom of Jews Pledged

Proclamation of the New Government in Russia

London, March 16.—The provisional government in Russia has issued the following appeal to the people, according to Reuter's Petrograd correspondent:

Citizens: The executive committee of the Duma, with the aid and support of the garrison of the capital and its inhabitants, has succeeded in triumphing over the obnoxious forces of the old regime in such a manner that we are able to proceed to a more stable organization of the executive power, with men whose past political activity assures them the country's confidence.

The new Cabinet will base its policy on the following principles:
FIRST—An immediate general amnesty for all political and religious offences, including terrorist acts and military and agrarian offences.

SECOND—Liberty of speech and of the press; freedom for alliances, unions and strikes, with the extension of these liberties to military officials within the limits admitted by military requirements.

THIRD—Abolition of all social, religious and national restrictions.

FOURTH—To proceed forthwith to the preparation and convocation of a constitutional Assembly, based on universal suffrage, which will establish a governmental regime.

FIFTH—The substitution of the police by a national militia, with chiefs to be elected and responsible to the government.

SIXTH—Communal elections to be based on universal suffrage.

SEVENTH—The troops which participated in the revolutionary movement will not be disbanded, but will remain in Petrograd.

EIGHTH—While maintaining strict military discipline for troops on active service, it is desirable to abrogate for soldiers all restrictions in the enjoyment of social rights accorded other citizens.

The provisional government desires to add that it has no intention to profit by the circumstances of the war to delay the realization of the measures of reform above mentioned.

Nicholas at Pskov, Ex-Empress Safe, Miliukoff Reports Ministers and Generals Locked in Fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul

Petrograd, March 16.—"According to the latest news, the Emperor is at Pskov, 162 miles southwest of Petrograd," said Foreign Minister Miliukoff, in a statement made before the Czar abdicated to-day. "Contrary to certain rumors, his majesty has not been arrested. The Empress remains at the Tsarskoe Selo, where she is in perfect safety."
Former Premiers Golitsine and Goremykin have been placed in the Fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul, as have Generals Soukhomlinoff and Beliaeff, former Ministers of War; A. R. Protopopoff, former Minister of the Interior; J. G. Chichegovitch and M. Makaroff, former Ministers of Justice; M. Malakoff, and General Kurloff, former Chief of Police. Other prominent persons under arrest are being detained temporarily in the Duma building.

War Victory Is Aim, Declares Miliukoff

Revolt Leader Says New Rule Will Give People Power
Petrograd, March 16.—(via London March 16).—"The problems which we are going to solve consist of the re-establishment in Russia of a free republic capable of giving the people final victory over the enemy," said Professor Paul Miliukoff, the new Foreign Minister, in a statement to-day to The Associated Press.

The great crime of the late government consisted of throwing the country into complete disorganization and subjecting it to the hardest trials. This state of affairs might even have had dangerous effects on the issue of the war. The increase of popular discontent was the cause of the turn which events have taken. The anger of the people was such that the Russian revolution was almost the shortest and most bloodless in history.
"The late government was completely isolated, which confirms the fact that no one had confidence in it. The great events of the last few days make it possible for the people to gain a fresh confidence. These events will increase popular enthusiasm and multiply the national forces, giving them at last power to win the war."
"During a few days the Duma attracted to itself the attention of the nation and was the centre of enormous moral force. To-day it has material force also at its disposal, seeing that the army has taken its side. Every hour brings news bearing witness to the continual growth of power of the forces of national representation."

Russian Police Lose Hope for Old Regime

London, March 17 (Saturday).—A Petrograd dispatch to "The Times," dated Thursday, says:
"Of the huge police force in Petrograd, which Minister of the Interior Protopopoff had organized to drown the city in blood, only 4,000 have been captured or killed up to this time. The remainder are in hiding and evidently have lost all hope for the restoration of the old regime."
"The powder mills at Okhtsinsk are working without stopping through all the trouble. The Arsenal, the Putiloff works and other munitions factories resumed operations in part on Wednesday, and it is expected that all workers will return to duty within a day or two."

Czar, Son and Regent Michael Abdicate, Closing Romanoff Dynasty

Duma Chiefs Assume Government at Once
Pledge Complete Autonomy to People; Army and Nation Back Regime
Petrograd, March 16, 6 p. m. (via London, March 17, 3:14 a. m.).—Emperor Nicholas abdicated at midnight last night on behalf of himself and the heir apparent, Grand Duke Alexis, in favor of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch.

At 2:30 o'clock this afternoon Grand Duke Michael himself abdicated, thus bringing the Romanoff dynasty to an end.
Prior to his abdication the Emperor transferred the supreme command of the armies to the Grand Duke Nicholas.
The government, pending a meeting of the Constitutional Assembly, is vested in the executive committee of the Duma and the newly chosen Council of Ministers. A manifesto to this effect was issued by the Duma committee to-day, and it will be telegraphed to the General Army Headquarters this evening.
For three months at least, it is said, the government of the country will rest in the hands of a committee of twelve.
Rebel Cabinet Takes Over Government; Petrograd Peaceful
Petrograd, March 16.—The executive committee of the Duma and the representatives of the soldiers and working classes, it is reported, have reached a full agreement to waive all minor differences until the meeting of the constitutional assembly, which will decide just what form the new government of Russia will take.
Russia to-day appeared to be in a fair way toward solving the greatest problem with which, perhaps, any nation was ever confronted. Order is growing with incredible rapidity out of the chaos of the past week, and the new government, gathering up the broken threads of national and municipal life, is striving to set the organization of the country in motion so that the conduct of the war will suffer as little as possible from the revolution.
New Ministry Quickly Begins Government Work
The members of the new ministry already have assumed their posts, and the government buildings, empty and deserted for four days, are again open for official business. The banks, all the commercial and financial houses and some of the factories have already responded to the new government's appeal, opened their doors and expressed a willingness to do everything in their power to effect as quick a recovery as possible from the paralysis of the past week. The soldier-police are guarding the streets in the place of the old gendarmes.
The old regime of Conservatives has been completely supplanted by a government of Liberals. The Cabinet has been chosen exclusively from present and past members of the Duma.
The election of a constituent assembly, it was determined at the conference of delegates from the Duma, the army and the people, will be based on universal suffrage.
Throughout the country the movement has won the support of cities and country districts. In fifteen provinces the Council of the Nobility